

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART



PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106
TELEPHONE 421-7346

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ACQUISITION:

Shih T'ao (also called Tao Chi), Chinese, before ca. 1645-after 1704 A.D., Ch'ing Dynasty

66.317 REMINISCENCES OF CH'IN-HUAI RIVER

Eight Leaf album: ink and light color on paper, 10-1/16" x 7-15/16"

John L. Severance Fund *from C.C. Wang (The Bamboo Studio)*
320 W. 81st St. N.Y. 24

This remarkable album, a format that is most agreeably suitable for Shih T'ao's imaginative perception and techniques, was painted for a friend in loving reminiscence of the days they spent together, visiting "plum blossoms" etc. at the Ch'in-Huai River in Nanking, by far one of the most romantic sites in China. It is the background of many masterpieces, not only in Chinese art, but also in poetry and drama.

Shih T'ao enjoyed a great reputation as a painter in his own time, and was one of the "four Monks of late Ming", known in the history of Chinese painting as the foremost and most widely admired representatives of the so-called Individualists school of the second half of the 17th century. In politics they were stubborn non-conformists, and in art they were rebels against tradition. Among the four, Shih T'ao is generally recognized as the most original, versatile and influential. He was a descendent of one of the Imperial princes of the Ming Dynasty and when the Dynasty was overthrown by the Manchus in 1644, Shih T'ao was made Prince Regent in South China by his father, the Prince of Ching-chiang. He had this title for only a short while because, when his father was killed, he became a monk.